

# News Release



USFWS Northeast Region  
Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge  
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For Immediate Release: Monday, January 11, 2016

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## **Edwin B. Forsythe Refuge Announces Environmental Assessment and Public Meeting for Pole Removal at Good Luck Point and AT&T Manahawkin**

Berkley and Stafford Townships, NJ – Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge has announced the availability of a draft Environmental Assessment for public review and comment regarding proposed projects at Good Luck Point in Berkley Township and AT&T Manahawkin in Stafford Township. The Environmental Assessment for the project is available for review at the Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge website, [http://www.fws.gov/refuge/edwin\\_b\\_forsythe/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/edwin_b_forsythe/), and at the refuge's Visitor Information Center located at 800 Great Creek Road, Oceanville, NJ. A public meeting will be held at 7 pm on Thursday, January 21, 2016 in the Berkeley Township Municipal Building, 627 Pinewald Keswick Road, Bayville, NJ 08721. The pole removal plan will be presented and will be followed by a question and answer period.

The Refuge proposes to remove large arrays of wooden poles and metal towers from two salt marsh tracts in Ocean County, NJ. The poles and towers at Good Luck Point and AT&T Manahawkin are part of inactive shortwave antenna fields associated with AT&T's ship-to-shore shortwave communications system, which was in operation at the sites from the early 1930s until 1999. Removing these poles and towers will enhance coastal marsh habitats by increasing marsh resiliency from impacts of large storm events and other ecosystem stressors and will reduce risks to migratory birds.

Written comments should be submitted to Rebecca Reeves, United States Fish & Wildlife Service, Edwin B. Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge, P.O. Box 72, Oceanville, NJ 08231 or via email to [forsythe@fws.gov](mailto:forsythe@fws.gov). The public comment period for the EA will close on February 12, 2016.

For more information, contact Refuge Manager Virginia Rettig at (609) 652-1665 or visit [http://www.fws.gov/refuge/edwin\\_b\\_forsythe/](http://www.fws.gov/refuge/edwin_b_forsythe/).

*The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefits of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen in the northeast region, visit [www.fws.gov/northeast](http://www.fws.gov/northeast). Connect with our Facebook page at*

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